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**Features of the activity of associations of the young Russian Germans**

*In this article the attempt to reveal the structure of activity of associations of the young Russian Germans, their opportunities for training and participation in the actions of organization, updating and to the development of their ethno-cultural identity is made. The idea of resource approach of K. Mankheym; self-realizable concept of culture of L.N. Kogan; theory of self-reference systems of N. Luman are initial. For studying of the features of activity of young associations of the Russian Germans the technique of Keys-stadi is chosen. Also the methods of included supervision, semi-formalized interview were used. External and internal factors of transformation of self-organization of the young Russian Germans are determined. Functions of self-organization of the young Russian Germans and the importance for reproduction of the groups with ethnic identity are revealed, the main activities are determined. Results can serve an additional judgment of cross-cultural dialogue of the youth and carrying out the balanced cultural policy in Russia and Germany.*

*В статье предпринята попытка раскрыть структуру деятельности объединений молодых российских немцев, их возможностей по обучению и участию в мероприятиях организации, актуализации и развитию их этнокультурной идентичности. Исходными являются: идея ресурсного подхода К. Манхейма; самореализационная концепция культуры Л.Н. Когана; теория самореферентных систем Н. Лумана. Для изучения особенностей деятельности молодых объединений российских немцев выбрана техника Кейс-стади. Так же использовались методы включенного наблюдения, полуформализованного интервью. Определены внешние и внутренние факторы трансформации самоорганизации молодых российских немцев. Выявлены функции самоорганизации молодых российских немцев и значимость для воспроизводства групп с этнической идентичностью, определены основные направления деятельности. Результаты могут послужить дополнительному осмыслению межкультурного диалога молодежи и проведению сбалансированной культурной политики в России и Германии.*

***Keywords***: *youth, Russian Germans, project activity, ethnic identity.*

***Ключевые слова:*** *молодежь, российские немцы, проектная деятельность, этническая идентичность.*

The multinational structure of the population of Russia and its participation in the life of the cities cause an interest of the researchers. In modern conditions the special attention is drawn by the small people, which also the Russian Germans treat. Close attention of foreign and domestic researchers to the questions of international relations testifies to sharpness of this subject. The share of people considering themselves the representatives not of one, but two and more ethno-cultures perceiving and/or using as native several languages increases. Now the Russian-German relations actively develop. Slowly and gradually there is a restoration of the forgotten, lost cultural traditions, customs, language, holidays, household features of life of the Russian Germans.

Despite a small number, Germans have left a noticeable mark in the industry, science, health care, education, art of Siberia. Today there was a need of understanding of the processes happening in the Russian society, explanations of possible prospects of international relations. The judgment of the past and conclusions following from it are actual for the further coexistence of all Russian people.

For the studying of features of the activity of young associations of the Russian Germans the technique of Keys-stadi which is applicable for the description of difficult processes and the phenomena and is preferable when carrying out the researches of modern events is chosen. Direct supervision and the semi-formalized interviewing were used. We proceeded from the understanding of youth as social resource and the resource approach to the youth based on it (K. Mankheym), the self-realizable concept of culture of the domestic sociologist L.N. Kogan, the theory of self-reference systems of N. Luman as a process and result of the self-description and introspection of self-reference system what the community of young Russian Germans is.

Questions of history, religion, migratory processes of different groups of the German population are described in scientific literature [1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7].

Several large scientific organizations and institutes are engaged in studying of the Russian Germans, among them: The international association of researchers of history and culture of the Russian Germans (further – IARHCRG); The German historical institute in Moscow; The Institute of culture and history of Germans in Northeast Europe; Viadrin's (Frankfurt-on-Oder) University, etc. [9; 10]. The known contribution to the studying of history of Germans of Russia and Siberia was brought by the works of foreign scientists. The western researchers, first of all German, even in the general works on history of the Russian multinational state don't disregard the German minority [11].

The Russian-German-Kazakhstan forum of the German youth which was taking place in October, 2015 in Novosibirsk became the following intermediate point and a result of work of the organization in a year, the platform for discussions of development plans both the youth movement, in general, and the local, regional organizations and clubs of the Russian Germans (further – RG), in particular. It should be noted the role of younger generation included in the Self-organization of Russian Germans (further – SO RG), and broadcasting the German people originality in the Russian and international community. The youth is the activator of cross-cultural dialogue and at the same time its vector. Therefore now, considering both external factors, and internal updating of the organization, it is necessary to pay attention to the strategic planning of activity of the association, its real way of functioning and the analysis of the done work.

The research was based on three main methods of collection of information: supervision, analysis of the secondary data, the expert semi-formalized interview. Participants in "The Russian-German-Kazakhstan forum of German youth" in Novosibirsk (October, 2015) acted as respondents in which the heads and the representatives of different regional youth German associations of the cities and regions of Russia have taken part (Novosibirsk, Tomsk, St. Petersburg, Syktyvkar, Tyumen, Minusinsk). As the organizer the Interregional public organization "The German Youth Association" (further – IPO "GYA") with involvement of the representatives of self-organization of RG in the Russian Federation, ethnic Germans in Kazakhstan and Germany, the governments of the Novosibirsk region has acted (77 people aged from 16 till 31 year. The average age of respondents has made 21 years). By preparation of the research the specifics of target audience and a subject of project, and also the purpose and problem of working fields of the Program of the Government of Germany of support of the German minority in the Russian Federation were considered. The research interest has been concentrated on a subject of the modern German youth movement in Russia and on such subjects as:

1. As far as this or that chairman / deputy of the chairman is informed on the structure of the Council of association of the Russian Germans and as far as the organization which he represents is included in the activity of SO RG? (Tasks of the working field: activization of participation of youth in the work of structures of SO RG; involvement of the youth from among the Russian Germans in public work of the youth organizations of the Russian Germans).

2. In what degree interaction of the Youth club / the youth organization is provided (further – YC/YO) and GYA? (Tasks of the working field: use by the youth of RG of opportunities for training and participation in the actions of the RG organization; improvement of the structure of YA RG and creation of the conditions for exchange of experience between them; providing the opportunity for training and carrying out free time for the development of ethno-cultural identity of RG).

**The main results of research**

1. “Knowledge” block.

The vast majority of participants of the research note that they obtain information on the structure of the Self-organization of Russian Germans on the projects of the German youth association (80,9%). So, 17 people (40,45%) obtain information on each project; 17 people (40,45%) obtain information, but "… to understand the SO RG system can be difficult". Three persons claim that this subject isn't presented in desirable volume on the GYA projects, the others – find it difficult to answer the question.

"How you learn the information on actual actions? Generally the teacher told us, that there takes place the competition …, I participate always. Somewhere I win, somewhere not. I participated in such competitions as "Experts on German", competitions of federal level which are announced by ICGC. About it I am spoken by either the teacher, or I learn on RUSDOYCh (16 l.m.)".

The majority (33 people – 78,6%) of respondents realize the importance and need of inclusion in the program of the GYA projects of the information block for SO RG, referring to its necessity, informational content and value (for the further work of organization and self-development), on the one hand, both some complexity and cognitive abstractness, – with another. The others find it difficult to answer the offered question.

The questions concerned as well the extent of participation of YC/YO in the Interregional coordination council (further – ICC) and the Youth council at ICC. More than a half of all participants were at a loss at the answer to the questions (16 people (38%) – participation in ISS; 26 people (61,9%) – participation in YC at ICC). Approximately equal number of respondents have answered the questions negatively (11 people (26,2%) – participation in ISS; 9 people (21,4%) – participation in YC at ISS). The others have stopped on affirmative variant (15 people (35,8%) – participation in ICC; 7 people (16,7%) – participation in YC at ICC).

Having analyzed this block, it is possible to judge rather low level of knowledge of participants of the forum of the structure of SO RG. As the reason for that their abstractness from the activity of German community, inexperience and/or inactivity of YC/YO can serve. It is proved also by the interview with delegates:

"How big is your Youth club? Now it becomes empty, it approximately – 30 – 40 people, definitely I don't know, but there was more. Propaganda, so to speak, happens at school. But everything passes on the basis of the non-learning center in our city that is the holidays take place in the German center, and the classes in German take place at school. The time is fixed, we come to a free class, and the lesson in the program which we have to study in the German center begins" (16 years, women).

Often young people are the participants of additional classes on German, integrated then the adult head (the teacher) in the youth club.

"Are you the head of YC/YO? I am the leader of YC. I – on study …, I was decided to be acquainted too. The teacher has asked: "Have you German roots?", – Yes! Then I was taken by the in a camp in Zharki, then I have gone to Moscow... Before I didn't participate at all in the actions of GYA (the German youth organization), (18 years, man).

We will note, the youth clubs are in the embryo or, on the contrary, have refused vigorous activity. Though more than a half of respondents (53%) called the heads of federal organizations of national and cultural autonomies of Germans of Novosibirsk, St. Petersburg, Syktyvkar, Tyumen, Minusinsk, the Omsk region and their name, but their percent is rather small, considering the target audience of the project (the heads, the deputy of youth organizations and the youth clubs of Germans of Russia). Besides, we will note that the respondents visiting "the round tables": "Youth organizations of ethnic Germans as a form of network civil activity: calls and prospects" and "The Strategy of cultural development of ethnic Germans among the young people: preservation or modernization", – to a large extent have been informed in the first three questions of the questionnaire: "Decipher the following abbreviations: IPO "GYA", SO RG, YC/YO, FNKA and YCGC. What of the organizations given above act on federal level? Who is the leader of the youth movement (the head of GYA)?"

As for extent of interaction of YC/YO with the higher structures of SO RG, data of researches confirm ignorance of the youth about functioning of this system more likely, than about the principal differences and the difficulties of interaction with the higher organizations and/or the senior generations.

Block 2. Actual project activity of GYA.

37 people (88,1%) obtain information on the actual activity of GYA and are addressees of electronic mailing. Only for 3 people (7%) this question became difficult. The youth is an active Internet user and portals on the German subject including. So, 38 people (90,5%) often (every day) come on the RG information portals, use pages on the social networks and another, from them 28 people (66,7%) are active users of the Internet space, they not only look for necessary information, but also willingly share it with the people around.

"What knowledge you gain on the projects, in what sphere you use them?

First, it is the language. Each time I notice that my knowledge improves. When at home or at lessons you are learning, it is boringly. And when in such weakened situation it occurs, just give an impetus to you. I, for example, remember what words then said to me. Secondly, it is the history of Germany, Landeskunde (18 years the woman)".

The younger generation considers self-organization of the Russian Germans proceeding from the own priorities and desires. Estimated judgments of the respondents of actual design activity of GYA concerned the choice of this or that area of work as necessary for the further development and representation in the subject of realized projects. Most of respondents have noted the shortage of language (15 people – 17,2%), creative (12 people – 13,8%), poly-cultural or international (11 people – 12,7%) and international (11 people – 12,7%) projects. 2 people from 42 consider necessary carrying out the projects among the young families and/or young adults. Difficulties among the participants of questioning have raised a question: "What projects, in your opinion, GYA carries out much?". 15 people from 42 (35,7%) have found it difficult to answer. The others have noted redundancy of the projects of ethno-cultural orientation (11 people – 19,3%), and also the cultural events (9 people – 15,8%) what also the forum is, for example.

The vast majority (34 people – 81%) of participants of the forum have noted the value of knowledge gained on “The German Youth Association” project (GYA), 5 people (12%) have agreed in opinion that such actions "empty" in respect of information saturation, 3 people (7%) have shared that the forum is the first acquaintance to GYA.

Activists of the organizations have given the evaluation not only from the point of view of advantage of the obtained information, but also have ranged the directions, have specified in what sphere of activity this knowledge is useful for them. Most of all respondents consider that the knowledge acquired on the GYA projects is valuable to the self-development and expansion of own erudition and education (64,2%), and also as the tools for public work (59,5%). At the same time, 26,3% of participants of the poll don't see application of information broadcast on the GYA projects in the household sphere, consider that it isn't useful also in the family affairs (19%).

It should be noted that for the respondents there are practically no directions causing indifference, lack of interest or they are rather small, as in the cases with the sphere of cultural and leisure technologies or the history and study of the local lore (6 people (14,2%) have refused filling of these points). Most of respondents (25 people – 59,6%) have enough highly appreciated need for training in the presented directions. The youth, language directions, and also cultural and leisure technologies and management of the organization became the most demanded of them; 2 people (4,8%) are sure that there is no possibility of training in their organization; the others (15 people – 35,6%) were at a loss at the choice of the answer.

For the youth from among the Russian Germans who are present at the project, the possibility of receiving new knowledge, skills remains the key incentive of participation in the work of self-organization. Despite a desire and readiness of the youth to be improved in the language and youth work (59,6%), the insufficient level of knowledge of other opportunities given by the Self-organization of the Russian Germans is noted. So, only 35,7% have in the affirmative designated the experience of participation of the youth clubs, youth organizations in the projects of the International union of German culture.

We will note that participating in the different national actions the youth actively makes efforts for revival of the national identity and preservation of the organizational unity. The subjective reasons which induce the descendants of Germans are significant, many of which have been repressed, to choose the German identification and to remain citizens of the Russian Federation.

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